

## AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. **(canceled)** A cooking implement, comprising:
  - a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and open at an opposite end;
  - a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite insertable end for inserting into said open end of said sheath;
  - upon inserting said insertable end into said sheath, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user and manipulating said utensil end.
  
2. **(canceled)** A cooking implement, comprising:
  - a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end;
  - a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath;
  - upon joining said male portion and female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user and manipulating said utensil end.
  
3. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, further comprising a hanger coupled to said first end of said sheath.
  
4. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 3, wherein said hanger is rotatably coupled.

5. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, wherein said female end opens into an expanded section comprising a larger inside diameter than the remainder of said sheath, said expanded section being diametrically and longitudinally sized to snugly receive said male portion in a friction fit.
6. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 5, wherein said expanded section has a length of between 3/4" and 3".
7. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 5, wherein said sheath further comprises an inner hollow longitudinal section for receiving and fully enclosing said utensil end.
8. **(currently amended)** A cooking implement, comprising:  
a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end, said female end opening into an expanded section comprising a larger inside diameter than the remainder of said sheath;  
a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath;  
said expanded section being diametrically and longitudinally sized to snugly receive said male portion in a friction fit and upon joining said male portion to said female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user to manipulate said utensil end;  
said male portion further comprising a rounded end and an opposite end, wherein upon inserting said utensil end into said hollow sheath, said opposite end of said male portion seats within said expanded section with a friction fit to fully enclose said utensil end within said sheath. ~~The cooking implement as recited in claim 5, wherein said male portion further comprises a rounded end and an opposite end, wherein upon inserting said~~

~~utensil end into said hollow sheath, said opposite end of said male portion seats within said expanded section with a friction fit to fully enclose said utensil end within said sheath.~~

9. **(currently amended)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 8, wherein said sheath and male portion are cylindrical and said [opposite] closed end of said sheath is rounded identically to said rounded end of said male portion.
10. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, further comprising said male portion having a threaded outside diameter for threadably engaging with a threaded inside diameter of said female end.
11. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2, wherein said male portion further comprises a pin, said pin engaging with a slot imparted into said female end.
12. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 2 wherein said utensil end is selected from the group consisting of a fork, a spoon, a skewer or a knife blade.
13. **(canceled)** A cooking implement, comprising:  
a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite open female end;  
a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath;  
said female end having an inside diameter sufficient for snugly receiving said male portion therein in a friction fit;

upon joining said male portion and female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user and manipulating said utensil end.

14. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, further comprising a hanger coupled to said first end of said sheath.
15. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 14, wherein said hanger is rotatably coupled.
16. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, wherein said female end opens into an expanded section comprising a larger inside diameter than the remainder of said sheath, said expanded section being diametrically and longitudinally sized to snugly receive said male portion in a friction fit.
17. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 16, wherein said expanded section has a length of between 3/4" and 3".
18. **(canceled)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, wherein said sheath further comprises an inner hollow longitudinal section for receiving and fully enclosing said utensil end.
19. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 13, wherein said utensil further comprises means for interchangeably connecting various utensil ends.

20. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 19, wherein said means comprises a shaft having a male adaptor and said utensil ends comprise a female adaptor for coupling with said male adaptor.
21. **(withdrawn)** The cooking implement of claim 19, wherein said utensil ends are selected from the group consisting of a spatula, a fish basket and a popcorn cooking pot.
22. **(new)** A cooking implement, comprising:  
a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end;  
a utensil comprising a utensil end for interacting with a food item and an opposite male portion for inserting into said female end of said sheath;  
said sheath and male portion being comprised of a heat resistant material; and  
upon joining said male portion and female end, said sheath forming an elongate handle for grasping by a user and manipulating said utensil end.
23. **(new)** The cooking implement as recited in claim 22, wherein said heat resistant material is a heat resistant plastic.
24. **(new)** A cooking implement, comprising:  
a hollow sheath, said sheath being closed at a first end and having an opposite female end;  
a utensil comprising a fork end for interacting with a food item, said fork end tapering into a shaft, said shaft being embedded into a male portion opposite said fork end, said male portion of said utensil being insertable into said female end of said sheath; and

whereupon joining said male portion and female end, said sheath forming a handle, said sheath being sufficiently elongate to allow a user to safely manipulate food items being cooked in an environment of heat and flames.